

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00330 031246Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 /028 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO AMEMBASSY OSLO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0330

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, SHUM, CZ, NO
SUBJECT: IMPLICATIONS OF CHARTER 77

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERS FROM AMBASSADOR BYRNE

REF OSLO 0516

1. BILL, YOU WILL BY NOW HAVE SEEN PRAGUE 307 REPORTING
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SPACIL'S PROTEST TO ME ABOUT THE
DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT ON CHARTER 77 AND COMMENTING ON SOME
IMPLICATIONS OF THE ISSUE FOR EAST-WEST RELATIONS. I HAVE HAD
REPEATED TO YOU PRAGUE 216 AND 284 WHICH CONTAIN SOME ANALYSIS
THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO YOU. WE WILL INCLUDE
OSLO IN FUTURE ANALYTICAL REPORTING ON CHARTER 77.

2. AT THIS POINT MY FEELING IS THAT THE EAST-WEST IMPLICATIONS
OF THIS ISSUE ARE MORE IMPORTANT FOR NORWAY, WITH THE BELGRADE
CSCE REVIEW SO CLOSE, THAN ARE BILATERAL IMPLICATIONS. THE
SOVIETS, WHO EXERT DECISIVE INFLUENCE HERE, MAY WELL BE MORE
CONCERNED THAN USUAL ABOUT NORWEGIAN REACTION, IN VIEW OF
THEIR OWN CURRENT PROBLEMS WITH THE VIKINGS, AND URGE
RESTRAINT ON THE CZECHOSLOVAKS.

3. AS FOR NORWEGIAN POLITICIANS, WHO HAVE TO DATE
DEFINITELY PLAYED THE LEAD SCANDINAVIAN ROLE, THE QUESTION
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IS HOW MUCH FURTHER THEY FEEL THEY MUST GO TO REGISTER DISTASTE
WITH DEVELOPMENTS HERE. PROVIDED THE SITUATION DOES NOT
SERIOUSLY DETERIORATE, I BELIEVE THAT HAVING MADE THEIR POINT
EXTREMELY WELL AND CLEAR, THEY MAY HOLD THEIR FIRE FOR BELGRADE.
THE NORWEGIANS COULD MAKE ANOTHER CONTRIBUTION BY APPOINTING
AN ARTICULATE AMBASSADOR WELL VERSED IN CSCE MATTERS TO FILL THE
POSITION LEFT OPEN BY AMBASSADOR BROCH'S RECENT UNTIMELY DEATH.

4. WARM REGARDS.
BYRNE

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